

GERIATRIC NURSING. By Kathleen Newton, R.N., M.A., in charge of Graduate Nurse Education, Cornell University-New York Hospital School of Nursing. Illustrated. The C. V. Mosby Company, 1950. \$4.50.

This is a text for nurses who are concerned primarily with the care of older people. It is planned for those who nurse the aged, either in the home or the hospital, in the private or the public agency. It gives full recognition to the importance of the sociological, psychological and economic background of the geriatric patient. It stresses such factors as adequate housing, general hygiene and nutrition (the first two sections—126 pages—are given over to these considerations). The major section—273 pages—deals with the common clinical conditions which need emphasis in the minds of nurses caring for the aged.

The book is written in a simple, clear manner which makes it of interest to the doctor and layman as well as to nurses concerned with their part—often major—in the basic problem of how to make old age more satisfying.

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WILLIAMS OBSTETRICS. By Nicholson J. Eastman, Professor of Obstetrics, Johns Hopkins University, Obstetrician-in-Chief, Johns Hopkins Hospital. Tenth Edition. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., New York, 1950. \$12.50.

For nearly 50 years this book has been a standard reference for teachers and students of obstetrics. It is so well known to all who have an interest in this subject that there is little of importance a reviewer can say. But it should be pointed out that this new tenth edition is by all odds the finest and most extensive revision of all, more than half the text having been completely rewritten. The title "Williams Obstetrics" has been restored, and fittingly so, since once again the book represents to a large extent obstetric practice in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where Williams reigned for so long a time.

The volume begins with an entirely new orientation chapter concerned with what might be called the public health aspects of obstetrics—birth rates, maternal mortality, stillbirths and neonatal mortality—as well as some remarks about problems for the future. The material on toxemia of pregnancy has been thoroughly revamped, and such things as vomiting, acute yellow atrophy of the liver, and renal disease have rightly been set apart. One might wish that the revision had been even more extensive, with a view to eliminating the somewhat artificial separation of eclampsia and preeclampsia. Thirty-three pages fall under the heading "eclampsia," which accounts for only 1 per cent of all the toxemia cases seen at the Hopkins Hospital, while less than 14 pages are devoted to preeclampsia which accounts for 78 per cent of the toxemias. Unification and condensation of these portions of the text would be of great help to the undergraduate student and general practitioner.

A valiant attempt has been made to bring the text up to date on pelvimetry, uterine activity during labor, obstetric anesthesia, placenta previa, syphilis and diabetes in pregnancy, puerperal infection, hemolytic disease of the newborn, and on numerous other questions of lesser magnitude. A good deal of the old text has been deleted, particularly items now of only historical interest, and the bibliographic lists have been shortened. This edition is a hundred pages shorter than the previous one. It is likely, however, that an even greater cut could be made in the length of the book without impairing its value.

The section on hemolytic disease of the newborn was written by Dr. Milton S. Sacks, director of the Baltimore Rh typing laboratory, and is very well done. The genetic aspects of the situation are clearly stated and the remarks on clinical management of the Rh-negative obstetric patient seem especially well phrased.

Chapter numbers, deleted in the previous edition, have been restored. This is of considerable aid when one uses the book as a classroom text. In future editions it might be profitable to introduce some sort of numbering or lettering scheme to designate various subdivisions of the longer chapters. About 200 new illustrations have been included, quite a few in color, and many old figures have been removed so that the illustrations are actually fewer in number but superior in quality. Altogether this is a delightful volume which should be read and reread by all who delve into the obstetric art.

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MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS — Applied Physical Diagnosis. Edited by Roscoe L. Pullen, M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Graduate Medicine, Director of the Division of Graduate Medicine, and Vice-Dean of the School of Medicine, Tulane University of Louisiana. Second Edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$12.50.

In editing this volume, Dr. Pullen has elaborated an idea, favored by many teachers, that physical diagnosis should be expanded to incorporate and correlate all the methods which the clinician can summon to his command in examining the patient. These include various accessory procedures in the form of roentgenographic, fluoroscopic, histologic and other studies found helpful in the interpretation of phenomena at the bedside. To describe and amplify these procedures is the commendable purpose of "Medical Diagnosis." In putting it together, Dr. Pullen has produced a book much more bulky than the usual text on physical diagnosis and one which is at times unwieldy.

The book begins with chapters on the medical history and an introduction to the examination. It then proceeds through what might be termed a systematic discussion of the various parts of the body by "regions"; these include the skin, the blood and endocrine system as separate chapters. Finally there are general sections on the child, the aged and the psychiatric patient. The chapters which are new to this, the second edition, are those on the blood, on medical diagnosis in the aged and on the physical examination of the psychiatric patient. The sections on the eye, the abdomen and electrocardiographic interpretation have been completely rewritten.

There is, unfortunately, considerable variation in emphasis and volubility in the writing of the different chapters. For example, the excellent monograph by the late Hugh Auchincloss on an area as limited as the breasts is allotted 45 pages, whereas the entire section on the chest (by Julius Wilson) consumes only 63 pages. Seventy-five pages are given over to Sodeman's chapter on the heart and 75 pages to Bayley's chapter on electrocardiographic diagnosis. Roentgenography of the lungs and heart is given adequate but only moderate treatment in the respective chapters on these subjects, whereas one half of the section on electrocardiography is occupied with discussions of theory and of the normal electrocardiogram. The chapter on gynecologic and obstetric diagnosis by Carter is a model of completeness, but detailed quite out of proportion to the extent of its importance in such a book as this, and written with too much emphasis on definitions and too little on physical diagnosis. The informative chapter on the endocrine survey of sexual and reproductive systems by Hamblen includes considerable gobbledegook to detail the findings of the normal.

All in all this volume can be recommended to practitioners as a good to excellent (depending on the chapter) reference book on the various aspects of medical diagnosis. It gives due attention to several areas of the body usually somewhat neglected in texts on physical diagnosis, e.g., the skin, the mouth, the neck, the pelvis, the anus and rectum and the endocrine glands. It will not serve well as a textbook for the second year medical student, although he may find it useful as an ancillary reference.